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(19) (CA) **CANADIAN PATENT** (12)

(54) Lithographic Printing Press

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Abstract

An improved printing press includes a tubular-shaped blanket removably disposed on a blanket cylinder and having a continuous outer side surface which is free of gaps and which is disposed in rolling engagement with a printing plate on a plate cylinder. The blanket is at least partially formed of a compressible material which is compressed by the plate cylinder at a nip between the plate and blanket cylinders. The outer side surface of the blanket has a surface speed which is the same at locations immediately before, at, and immediately after the nip to prevent smearing of the ink pattern at the nip. The blanket may be formed with an outer layer of incompressible material and an inner layer of compressible material. The outer layer of the blanket is deflectable to compress the inner layer of the blanket. The inner layer of the blanket contains a plurality of voids which are relatively large prior to deflection of the outer layer of the blanket by the printing plate on the plate cylinder and which are relatively small at a portion of the inner layer of the blanket which is subsequently compressed by deflection of the outer layer of the blanket. The blanket has an inner metal sleeve which is tensioned by the blanket cylinder to retain the blanket on the blanket cylinder.